

## **Pianist Alessio Bax, a Leeds Competition Gold Medalist, Is Now Represented by 21C Media Group**

*“Mr. Bax, who counts a 2009 Avery Fisher Career Grant among his numerous awards and accolades, is worth getting excited about.” — the New York Times*

21C Media Group is proud to announce that it now represents pianist **Alessio Bax**, handling his media and public relations. *Gramophone* magazine described Bax as “wondrously gifted” and “ardent and dazzling” in its review of his most recent recording, ***Rachmaninov: Preludes & Melodies***. A 2009 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, Bax is first prize winner of two international piano competitions, the Hamamatsu in Japan, and the Leeds, whose laureates include Andras Schiff, Radu Lupu, Murray Perahia and Mitsuko Uchida.

“Since winning the prestigious Leeds Competition in 2000, Bax has matured into one of the most compelling pianists around,” said the *Dallas Morning News* last July. “There’s dazzling virtuosity where called for, but more impressive is his way of shaping the music, warmly caressing phrases.”

Bax returned to the Dallas Symphony this past fall as soloist under music director Jaap van Zweden. He also appears this season with orchestras in London, Bilbao, Castilla y León and Seoul, and performs recitals in Iceland, Cyprus, Rome, Taipei, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Beijing, France and Spain. The young pianist participates on tour and at Alice Tully Hall with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center where he is in his third year as a member of CMS Two; collaborates with violinist Karen Gomyo in Toronto, and cellist Sol Gabetta at the Kennedy Center; and tours Canada with his wife and frequent duo partner, pianist Lucille Chung.

With a rigorous schedule of engagements around the world, Bax rivals George Clooney’s character in the movie *Up In The Air* for elite status as an executive platinum “2-million-miler” level frequent flier on American Airlines. He launched the New Year at the Seoul Arts Center performing Liszt’s Piano Concerto No. 1, traveled to the border of Wales to record an all-Brahms CD for Signum Classics, and then to Germany for a week of chamber music. He returns to New York City to play Mendelssohn with cellist Steven Isserlis and violinist Stefan Jackiw for his **debut at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y on January 15<sup>th</sup>** before flying to Spain to perform Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No. 2. At the end of January, the indefatigable pianist appears as soloist with the Southbank Sinfonia in London and Richmond in Mozart’s Concerto in C minor, K. 491.

To date Bax has performed with over 90 orchestras worldwide, including the London and Royal Philharmonic orchestras, Dallas and Houston symphonies, NHK Symphony in Japan and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle. Among his festival appearances are London's International Piano Series (Queen Elizabeth Hall), Switzerland's Verbier, England's Aldeburgh and Bath festivals, USA's Music@Menlo and Bard SummerScape, and the Ruhr Klavier-Festival, Beethovenfest, and Schloss Elmau in Germany.

*The New York Times* called Alessio Bax a musician “worth getting excited about” in its review of his New York debut recital at the Metropolitan Museum in 2010. *Time Out New York* wrote, “**Bax ravages the keyboard, remolding the ivories into sonic sculptures that light up an auditorium.**” He returned to Music@Menlo last summer for a second “Carte Blanche” recital after which the *San Francisco Examiner* enthused, “With an electrifying technique, the 33-year-old Italian pianist rose to the occasion and delivered riveting performances of Brahms, Enescu and Bartok... It was a wonderful musical event, one which left many audience members shaking their heads in astonishment.”

As a recording artist, Bax has earned across-the-board praise from the international music magazines for each of his solo albums. *Rachmaninov: Preludes & Melodies* (Signum Classics) just snared a “Critics’ Choice 2011” from *American Record Guide*. *Classic FM Magazine* said Bax has “**technique to burn but also has the unteachable ability to tug at the heart strings ... This is one of the most intelligent and engrossing Rachmaninov recitals of recent years.**” *Audiophile Audition* predicted that “his traversal of the Op. 23 Preludes seems likely to become a classic rendition,” and *Gramophone* warned, “You would have to have a heart of stone not to be beguiled by Bax’s romantic warmth ... I can scarcely wait to hear this ardent and dazzling young pianist in the Op. 32 Preludes, the Etudes-tableaux, Moments musicaux and much else besides.”

*Gramophone* awarded an “Editor’s Choice” to Bax’s first solo disc, *Baroque Reflections* (Warner Classics), stating, “**His playing quivers with an almost hypnotic intensity.**” The album also received *American Record Guide*’s “Critics’ Choice.” *Gramophone* called Bax’s 2009 recording for Signum Classics, *Bach Transcribed*, “an unmissable disc of transcriptions,” and *Fanfare* emphasized, “This disc is a must.”

Classical radio stations here and abroad program Bax’s discs regularly. He recently performed Beethoven’s “Pathétique” and Op. 110 live on WQXR during the station’s highly publicized **Beethoven Awareness Month** marathon of the complete piano sonatas at the Jerome L. Greene Space. Two hours later the inveterate traveler was on a flight from JFK to Europe for a concert the next day in Paris.

Bax can be heard playing Beethoven’s “Hammerklavier” Sonata for maestro Daniel Barenboim in the PBS-TV documentary *Barenboim on Beethoven: Masterclass*. The documentary has been broadcast worldwide, and is available as a DVD box set on the

EMI label.

Alessio Bax graduated at age 14 with top honors from the conservatory of Bari, Italy, his hometown. After further studies in Europe, he moved to the United States in 1994 to continue with Joaquín Achúcarro at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts in Dallas where he is now on the teaching faculty. A Steinway artist, he resides in New York City with his wife, pianist Lucille Chung.

"I'm awfully glad to have met Alessio, and I can't wait to hear what he'll bring to the music he plays in the future," wrote **Performance Today** host Fred Child last November in *The Poetry and Power of Pianist Alessio Bax*, for his **Favorite Sessions** blog post on NPR Music. [Read more and listen here.](http://www.npr.org/2011/11/09/142174929/the-poetry-and-power-of-pianist-alessio-bax)  
[<http://www.npr.org/2011/11/09/142174929/the-poetry-and-power-of-pianist-alessio-bax>]

For the past two seasons Bax has been one of the musicians represented in 21C Media Group's "Artists To Watch" imaging and profile-building program.

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